California GARDEN

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OCTOBER 1938

The Flower in Art
Reginald Poland

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K. O. Sessions

Consider the Lillies

Ornamental Grasses

Book Reviews
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for Insects and Disease

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The Flower in Art . . . .

THEME OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

At the September meeting, a surprise program was presented the members and friends of the San Diego Floral Association when Reginald Poland, director of the Fine Arts Gallery spoke before the club on "The Flower in Art." Exhibiting many masterpieces of beauty production, by artists of different countries, Mr. Poland illustrated his talk.

He said, "There is every reason why flowers and other gifts which Nature offers should appear in art. Art is an interpretation from life; in our lives we are surrounded by the bounties of Nature. Artistically creative, geometrical forms may or may not mean something to you or me. Animate forms always have more or less individuality. Flowers, however, do not feel and react as do the beings of the animal or human world. The living flower is in tune with our lives, and, not revealing such individuality as animate beings, they therefore hold a more universal appeal. Then, too, a flower, whether naturalistically treated or evolved into practically an abstract form in art, may be like the flower in either case and be in tune with nature, the while pleasing especially because of the decorative qualities.

Flowers and other natural forms were often first used incidentally in art—naturalistically to give the beholder certain facts, or decoratively, to complete a well-composed pattern. Later on, a flower might be used symbolically, for an ulterior purpose therefore. The blue water lily of Egypt suggested a full harvest; the lily in Italian Renaissance paintings often symbolized the Immaculate Conception and appears in the Annunciation scene. In Shakespeare's Hamlet, poor, mad Ophelia gives rosemary for remembrance and a pansy for thoughts. Finally, we have flowers used for their own sake—"Art for art's sake." We have Still-lifes of flowers being painted for their own beauty, for the Dutchman's daily enjoyment in his home, during the cold winter months.

There is a great difference between the use of flowers in Occidental and Oriental art. In the West we often think of man as the center of the stage, with everything revolving about him. There is an objective viewpoint. A Still-life is conceived more or less as one more luxury. Such a Dutch Still-life would be considered fine, if well painted, of a delightful subject and if containing such visual qualities as significant texture, value and color. However, in the Orient, a Chinese would think of a single stalk of bamboo as a symbol of grace, upward growing and aspiring, with hope and faith, and suggestive of strength and self-reliance. In the Orient, the idea of life, growth and the spirit peculiar to this or that flora, would be of prime importance.

The flower in art is nearly as old as the world, dating back to the cave painters. It rose to a place of greatest importance in our West, in Belgium and Holland, during the 17th century; in the East, probably its greatest expression appeared in the T'ang and Sund Dynasties, between 600 and 1260 A.D. In Botticelli of Italy, we have the East meeting with the West, combining physical beauties with those unseen qualities of the mind, heart and soul. His picture of "Spring" perfectly illustrates this.

Today we are at the cross-roads. We can recall no artist equal to any of those from the greatest epochs, already mentioned. Evidently the world itself will have to rise to similar heights, before its reflection through art can excel."

Mrs. Greer, president, was pleased to report most satisfactory results of the Fall Flower Show, there having been 1000 exhibits and 272 awards. She announced the coming "Mum" Show to be held in the Arthur Marston gardens, inviting everyone growing them to exhibit their blooms. Grown in her own garden, Mrs. Greer donated a quantity of the large, fragrant white flowers from the night-blooming cereaus for distribution to all persons present.

Refreshments were served by the the House Committee and the new dishes were christened.

Interesting Palms . . . .

By K. O. SESSIONS

In Balboa Park there is an interesting group of fan leafed palms that the public may not observe as often as they should. The group is north of the Laurel street entrance at 7th St. and north of the playground that formerly was the rose garden, at the N.E. corner.

It is a collection of three Erythea palms, of much interest because of their peculiar habitat. The best known is the Guadalupe fan-Erythea Edulis, a native of that solitary Island of Guadalupe, in the Pacific 200 miles south of San Diego; named Edulis because its seed has a sweet and edible fleshy covering. It is a very handsome palm with dark green foliage. A good row can be observed in the center of Palmeto Way in Mission Hills north of Lewis street.

The second palm has a very light bluish grey foliage and grows in Lower California only, 60 miles south of the boundary line but in the interior, reached via Campo. There are a few fine specimens scattered about the city. When it blossoms the 5 or 6 flower spikes swing out and up over the leaves and almost touch the ground, like huge cream colored plumes and is a very handsome show. Its seed are very hard with no soft covering. It is deserving of more general culture.

The third variety is the Erythea Brandegeii a small leafed fan with its under side rather grey. It grows very tall and slender and there are over 200 plants in the group. It was discovered by Dr. T. S. Brandegeii an expert California botanist in Oct. 1900 on the mountains of Cape St. Lucas, the extreme tip of Lower Calif. and named by Dr. Purpus of Germany, a botanical palm specialist. This is the only cultivated large group of this palm in the world. These plants were grown from seed collected in 1900 and grown in the first nursery in Mission Hills at Stephens St. Now when 37 years old a few of the plants are showing flowers. The far separated and peculiar locations of these three Erytheas in this Southwestern corner of North America is the interesting fact. The other two known Erytheas are located in New Mexico and Mexico.

The popular palm, known as Cocos plumosa, has been given a physical examination by the botanists and it has been decided that it has no right to be called Cocos. That the only palm that is entitled to that generic name is the Cocos nucifera which bears the edible cocoanut with its peculiar milky juice. So our Cocos Plumosa must now be labelled Arecastrum Roman Zoffianum. It is a native of Central and southern Brazil.

FLOWER BULBS IN WINTER

Blooming Period Artificially Lengthened.

Dutch flower bulbs are known the world over. The countless numbers of them which turn vast stretches of the Netherlands countryside into a sea of brilliant colour every April and May must, for the most part, be exported to distant lands, since the home market can absorb only a small proportion. Hence the expansion of foreign markets is a matter of the first importance, and it is accomplished in various ways. First of all, the variety of the stock must be increased by experiments in crossing and hybridization. In this process, the goal of breeding must be adapted to the purpose which the plant is to serve. Very interesting experiments in this direction were described at the XIIth International Horticultural Congress by **Dr. J. J. Beijer,** of the Laboratory for Flower Bulb Research at Lisse, Netherlands, who refrerred particularly to the many experiments in crossing lilies which have been made at Ottawa since 1913. Any effort to breed bulbous plants by crossing and selection is immensely helped by decades of practical experience. The results of scientific research can be taken into consideration only if they are made available to the breeder and if he is able to apply them. A further important means of increasing the market is an artificial lengthening of the flowering periods. Whereas, for example, narcissi, tulips, and hyacinths normally bloom for a short time in April or May, it has proved possible, by using special methods of preparation and storage, to make them flower in the months from December to March as well, the period when flowers are most scarce. A great amount of attention has been devoted to this question in Holland during the past 15 years. In investigating the relation between flowering and temperature, for exampl, it was discovered that with tulips, hyacinths and narcissi the blossom forms during the rest period, i. e. when the buld is being kept dry. Thus it is possible to apply temperature treatments during July, August, and September and thereby greatly influence the further development. With gladiolus and lilies, on the other hand, the blossom is not developed during the rest period but only after the bulb is planted. The flowering period can nevertheless be advanced by a gradual forcing of bulbs which have previously been treated. If the flowering period of bulbous plants can thus be lengthened and advanced to a season when flowers are scarce and at the same time—as at Christmas—there is a heavy demand for them, growers of flower bulbs will obviously reap a great economic advantage.

Meeting October 18

The regular meeting Oct. 18th promises to be one of the best of the year for Mrs. Greer announces she has secured Mr. Chas. Gibbs Adams, famous landscape architect of Pasadena, for that date. The subject sounds highly appropriate for San Diego garden lovers—"Fascinations of Old Mexico" and it is hoped that every members will be able to hear this outstanding garden authority.

There will be no admission charge but perhaps a silver offering to help defray expenses of bringing Mr. Adams to San Diego. Meeting at 7:30. Come early for good seats and bring a friend.

Consider the Lillies

Miss Sessions says lilies are choice perennials and that many more varieties should be in cultivation here. Since this is the time to be securing them I thought a few notes might be proper in this issue.

Plant them in a rich, well-drained soil, partially shaded and preferably with a background of solid green shrubs to act as a foil for the gorgeous blossoms. The bulbs should be planted 6 inches deep with a bed of sand at the base of each bulb to prevent rotting. Feed with a commercial fertilizer.

Here are a few of the proved varieties:

Lilium regale: Hardy and easily grown; fine trumpet shape and deliciously scented flowers. Profuse bloomer. Color: ivory white, shaded pink with yellow tinge at base of each petal. Ready Oct.

Lilium speciosum album: Large white flowers with greenish band running thru the center of each petal. Ready in Nov.

Lilium henryi: 3 - 5 feet high. Flowers rich apricot-yellow. Ready late Nov.

Lilium auratum: The famous golden-banded lily of Japan. One of the finest. Ivory white, chocolate crimson spotted with golden yellow center. Ready late Nov.

Lilium candidum: Loveliest of all. White flowers, very fragrant. Must be planted in early fall.

Lilium rubrum. Very popular. Rosy white, heavily spotted with rich crimson. Late Nov.

Lilium tigrinum. Easily grown, tall variety. Deep orange black spotted flowers. Ready late Nov.

Chrysanthemum Show

The dates haven't been definitely fixed but sometime near the end of the month we will hold our annual Chrysanthemum Show. Our president, Mrs. Greer, urges everyone to take care of his mums so they will be in exhibition form. There will be several classes and of course arrangements will be featured. Watch daily papers for the dates.

Ornamental Grasses

The interest in ornamental grasses seems to be reviving. Whether this is due to the numerous weed shows, in which wild and ornamental grasses play a large part, or due to the fact that this type of plant life is particularly fitted for our climate and our type of garden, it is hard to say. In any case a few notes on them might be interesting to some.

The reign of grasses dates back to the days when the Eohippus, the forefather of the horse, lived. At this time many of the herbivorous animals became established as a result of the grasses coming into the vegetable kingdom. Grasses rank first in importance to both man and beast and the history of man is closely linked to that of the grasses.

There are about 10,000 species and about 1300 in the U. S. which is ideal country for them. They are distributed throughout the zones of the earth and range from the bamboos, 60 feet in height to some only a few inches high. They adapt themselves easily, sometimes too easily, e. g. Bermuda grass. But this is an important factor for they are great soil holders and prevent erosion, by aiding trees and shrubs to gain footing.

Many of the grasses are our most important food plants and in addition they give us sugar and many by products and are used in manufacturing and building.

Little is known about this family yet they send their seeds everywhere. Their method of seed distribution—by barbs and awns, and numerous other ingenious methods is particularly interesting. Study their botanical parts under a glass sometime. The petals and sepals are replaced by glumes. Many of the flowers are perfect and their parts can be referred to the larger flowers.

All in all, an interesting group. —T. M.

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AMERICAN FUCHSIA SOCIETY NOTES

One of our members asked for a list of climbing fuchsias. My answer to her might be worthwhile reading for others, so here it is: "Any tall growing variety with branches not too stiff may be trained to grow up a wall, fence or lattice work, especially in a rather shady place, by constantly raising and tying of the uppermost branches while they are still soft and flexible and at the same time cutting out lower laterals as soon as they appear, to force all growth to the top." Try this with Splendens, Nonparail, Schiller, Rose of Castile, Requa, Purple Phenomenal, Duchess of Albany, Graf Witte, Grenadier, Pasteur.

As a solution for our label problem Miss Bachrach offers this suggestion: "Zinc strips wirtten with indelible ink make permanent labels." The writer of this uses labels made of light gray heavy stencil board (such as used in office filing systems) written with Higgin's waterproof ink, tacked to the stakes. They are good for several years.

Preferred varieties of fuchsias.

Balkon—Type F small, shell pink spls, rose pink crl. Next to Betty and Cascade one of the best for hanging baskets.

Aviator—Type A large, bright red tube and spls, long purple crl. extraordinarily floriferous. Fine upright shrub 4 to 5 foot.

G. Monk—Type L small, rose red spls. reflexed crl. gracefully irregular light blue purple and rose. Fine to train to small standards.

Meteor—Type A, treasured for its rich varigated golden brown foliage with red flowers. Beautiful if trailed on lattice work. (Autumnal)

Prince of Orange—Type E or F, tube and spls. salmon pink, crl. dark orange red. A very fine flower on weak slow growing plant. 2 foot.

Rose of Castile—Type F, small one of the most floriferous, best and most common varieties. spl. pale rose ivory, crl lavender purple.

Mme. Cornelissen—Type A semi double, spls red, crl white red veined. A very popular small flower; strong plant; blooming all year.

Book Reviews . . . . . .

By S. S. BERRY

THE LIVING GARDEN
By E. J. Salisbury, D Sc., F.R.S.
The Macmillan Co., N.Y., 1936, $3

We deeply regret that we are so late in our notice of this important book, but we would be remiss indeed to permit so genuinely remarkable an addition to the select garden shelf to pass unnoticed in our colmns. We can only trust to our whole-hearted emphasis of its worth to make amends.

"If our knowledge of plants is a reality and not a mere mass of information, it should do for us what Shelley said of poetry—'Lift the veil from the hidden beauty of the world'." Dr. Salisbury's volume, one of the most charmingly written that we have read in many a long day, again makes manifest the inevitable richness of yield when high talent does the tilling. To elucidate an intricate scientific subject with meticulous accuracy demands the hand of a master. To do this so easily, pleasingly, and entertainingly that the reader is not only taught but held spellbound requires more than the hand of a master, rather the wand of a magician. Here science is brought both into and from the garden; here plants are portrayed not as herbarium specimens or objects d'arts, but as vibrant breathing beings. The magic wand has been waved. Read, and wonder not that a book no larger than this one promptly received the high encomium of the Veitch Memorial gold medal of the Royal Horticultural Society!

We are mostly prone to take every-day things in our gardens, as in the rest of life, pretty much for granted. Inevitably we are the losers. Too often we forget the truth that the simplest, the most familiar things remain in the last analysis the dearest to us. Only when they are gone, when we miss them, do we appreciate what they have been. On the other hand we need attend only a little to discover not only that the commonplace is necessary, but that it is interesting. How much richer are our thoughts, how much fuller our whole experience, where this is understood, and how great the pity that the understanding must be so rare! It required a Charles Darwin after all the centuries to write a natural history of the common earthworm in a tale which still endures and fascination. In this book likewise lies fascination, not in descriptions of the beauties of rock and alpine plants, but in the explanation of why they are as they are and why they behave as they do, why certain types of frost are so much more devastating than others, why the new corms incessantly building above the remnants of their predecesosrs fail ever to reach the surface, why the seed-leaves of some plants appear above the soil while those of others do not, and not alone why all these things happen as they do, but how they happen as well. Room is even found for a very pleasant chapter on just names: in England as in America "the owners of gardens can often be grouped into those who know their plants but do not know their names, and those who know the names, but do not know their plants." Either way the los is an unhappy one. The author's advice to the gardener is ever to keep notes—"do not be afraid of recording too much, for you will always record too little," gives aphorismic expression to an often unremembered truth.

That the work is scientifically up-to-the-minute goes without saying. We were surprised to run across even an allusion to "heavy water." Critiscism, were any necessary, is therefore largely beyond our competence, but it may not be out of place to mention that the unqualified use of the word "mutation" in connection with the progeny of hybrid strains (p.182) does not altogether make for clarity, while in another place (p.132) the term California Poppy (note the capitalized initial) appears hardly defensible when the specific reference is to Romneya rather than Eschscholtzia.

In conclusion it is appropriate to express to the publishers some trifle of the great pleasure to be felt merely in the handling of a book arranged, printed, and bound with such dignity and charm.

MODERN DAHLIAS
By J. Louis Roberts
Edited by Leonard Barron
(Doubleday, Doran & Co., Garden City, N. Y., 1938; $2.00)

This is a well arranged and informing handbook, which we are sure will meet with a warm welcome from all who grow or who intend to grow dahlias. The field is covered about as thoroughly as could be expected of one small book, and some phases of the subjects are extensively treated which oft-times one does not find included in such a volume at all. There is an extended discourse on propagation, a detailed discussion of the perennially unsettled how, when, and why of fertilizing, and meticulous instruction in the growing of dahlias for exhibition. A very complete treatment of insect pests and diseases and their intelligent control covers many pages which will not be among the least often consulted in the book, but it is discouraging to find the insect, thrips, continually referred to as thrip. We evidently are in sad need of a single-letter English equivalent for Psi. Some readers will be happy to find an entire chapter devoted to instructions for building cloth-houses. It is of interest to note that the author admits his knowledge of only four varieties of dahlia which grow better in clay than in lighter soils, and none at all which grow best in sand.

FRAGRANCE IN THE GARDEN
By Anne Dorrance
(Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc.; Garden City, N.Y., 1937; $1.00)

This little treatise begins somewhat tritely, but fragrance is so pleasing a thing to read about as well as to smell, that we never put down unfinished a book having this as chief concern. This time we turn only a few pages to find ourselves rewarded, especially by the chapter on herbs, which is not only the best one in the book, but is sup-

plemented by a valuable annotated list containing a great variety of odd and interesting items. One chapter is devoted to sweet-smelling plants for the rock-garden. The compilation of a long list of fragrant plants, again well annotated, is very good and will be useful even though rather too many of the names suffer from mis-spelling. The concluding chapter deals with perfumes and potpourri. Certain charmingly written paragraphs, as on page 22, should be mentioned, and in our perusal we are continually finding some reminder of the truth expressed on page 43 that "human noses tell their stories in as many different ways as human brains!" Illustration is effected by a series of pleasant drawings, which have not, however, been selected in a way adding very greatly to the book's practical utility.

FEED YOUNG TREES WHEN PLANTING THIS FALL

Some trees have now entered their dormant period and may be safely transplanted. In planting new stock, don't overlook mixing a complete balanced plant food with the soil, and thus insure having a supply of available nourishment present when the tree starts growth in the spring.

This is also an excellent time to feed established trees. The dry summer which we have experienced has left its mark on many trees, and has weakened them to an extent which may prove disastrous unless they are given exceptionally good care during the coming year.

Plenty of available balanced plant food is a necessity if damaged trees are to regain their original vigor. A tree which suffers from starvation is further weakened and is easy prey to diseases and insects which a healthy tree can resist. A balanced plant food placed where it is available to the feeding roots early next spring is an investment which you will not regret. The tree will be enabled to make early growth in the spring, and you will enjoy the luxurious foliage which will result.

Patronize "California Garden" Advertisers

NAME NEW CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Five seedling chrysanthemums developed in the U. S. Department of Agriculture greenhouses have been named for introduction to the trade. Limited stocks of plants will be available to commercial growers for propagation of the new varieties which include one of the large-flowered Japanese eyhibition types and four pompon chrysanthemums.

These represent the choicest and most distinctive of the new varieties selected in 1936 for propagation and final selection in 1937. Two of the seedlings are from pollinations made in 1934 and three from crosses in the fall of 1935. F. D. Richey and B. Y. Morrison of the Bureau of Plant Industry made the final selections after observing the flowers at the department's annual chrysanthemum breeding in the department greenhouses.

The new varieties are described as follows:

Gay Nineties, the large-flowered Japanese exhibition type seedling, was so named because of its delicate mauve colorings and the pleasantly curved and twisted petals. The petals are more accurately a light pinkish lavender with a slightly paler reverse (Ridgway, Light Rosolane Purple with Rosolane Pink reverse.)

Ballerinia, of the pompon types, makes a stiff erect plant with good foliage and abundant white flowers. There are almost enough rows of stiff white petals to make the variety a semi-double rather than a true single, but these do not hide the golden disc which accents all single flowers.

Break o' Day, also a single, has a less erect habit but its masses of flowers are well supported. Their color is their great distinction, a pinkish apricot-yellow for which the Ridgway designation is Ochraceous Salmon.

Buttercup, as indicated by the name, is just that color and the flower has almost as much vivacity. In height habit and flower form, it is almost identical with its pollen parent, Marie Brillant, one of the most striking flowers introduced by the department during the last ten years. Unlike its parent, which is yellow outlined and tipped with reddish shadings, the flower is pure lemon yellow with the center of the same hue; like its parent, it has long, broad petals that rise from the center and then recurve.

Tinto o' Tan is a third yellow selection, with particularly symmetrical and flat-faced flowers of a slightly buffish yellow that suggests a fine harvest. It has xecellent stems and good foliage.

CLEANING UP THE GARDEN

By The Master Gardener

Sanitation is just as important in the garden as it is in the home. Show me a gardener who is very particular about cleaning up all dead vegetation in the flower and vegetable garden in the fall and early winter, and I'll wager he is not greatly troubled with disease and insect pests during the gardening seatson. Not that this is absolute insurance against these gardening problems—far from it—but sanitation is an important aid in the control of both insects and disease, because rubbish and dead vegetation provide winter harboring places of many insects and eggs, and the spores of many diseases are carried on dead leaves and stalsk.

Remove dead iris leaves and burn. This will kill any borer eggs that may be present.

Also destroy the tops of gladiolus that were removed from the corms in digging, to destroy any thrips that may be present.

Burn the leaves and stems of phlox, larkspur, and any other plants that are often attacked by fungus diseases.

After you have finished removing all dead vegetation, spade up the garden and let it lie rough for a time. This will improve the physical condition of the soil for the next planting, kill insects and help to control weeds.

Always clean the garden tools thoroughly before they are put away. It is best to coat them with grease to prevent rusting.

CUT FLOWERS BY AIR RESIST FREEZING IN NEW WRAPPING

Cut flowers can be grown in California, shipped across the continent by air express, and arrive in near perfect condition as a result of a new wrapping process devised by refrigeration specialists of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

The cold air of the substratosphere penetrates an ordinary package in unheated baggage compartments of a plane. Department of Agriculture scientists utilize this cold air in "heating" the flowers to a point just above freezing—an ideal temperature for shipping.

The flowers are placed in an ordinary shipping box, which is wrapped with wax paper, and then with about 30 thicknesses of water-soaked newspaper. Another wax paper is wrapped about the wet paper to hold the moisture. The package is then put into a common pasteboard box, which is wrapped with about 15 thicknesses of dry newspaper and one thickness of heavy wrapping paper.

In the cold, rarefied atmosphere high over the Rocky Mountains the water-soaked paper starts freezing. Heat released by the freezing water is released slowly inside the package, but retained by the outside wrapping and insulation of dry newspapers. Flowers packed by this method are protected longer than ordinarily is required for a plane to fly from San Francisco to New York. The method can also be utilized for local shipments by rail or truck.

Trial shipments made last winter included field-grown roses, sweet peas, freesias, gardenias, carnations, and buttercups. On account of its extra cost this method of protecting shipments is feasible only in the winter when flowers bring the highest prices.

Patronize "California Garden" Advertisers

Hear Landscape Architect Chas. G. Adams at the October meeting of the S. D. Floral Society on October 18.

Problems of the Soil . . . .

By R. R. McLEAN

Editor's Note: A reply was made in this column to a question asked with reference to the fall irrigation of decidious fruit trees. It was advised not to entirely withhold water from such trees at this time of year but to give enough water to keep the leaves reasonably fresh and green until they drop naturally. An additional comment coming from Mr. W. H. Hoyt of El Cajon, a decidious fruit grower of long experience, is very timely and should be emphasized further. Mr. Hoyt calls attention to the fact that if water is applied in quantity too late in the summer or fall, a late sappy growth may result and the wood fail to ripen properly, particularly if the weather continues warm. This condition would almost surely result in winter injury, especially if the trees are growing where winter frosts are the rule.

The question of fall irrigations must largely be decided on the basis of soil type, as to whether it is retentive of moisture or not, and the possibility of early winter frosts. In Mr. Hoyt's location, where the soil is fairly heavy and winter frosts are expected rather early, he does not irrigate, as a rule, after the first of September, as enough moisture is retained in that soil from the last irrigation to keep the trees in condition until the rains come. On the other hand it should be said that trees in light, well drained soils near the coast probably would suffer from lack of water if none were given after September 1st. Growers in various localities must necessarily be their own judges of this, giving the trees only such amounts of water and at such times as will keep them in condition. Hard and fast rules applicable to all conditions obviously cannot be given. It should be well remembered that heavy fall irrigations or those given when not actually needed at this time of year are not only wasteful but may actually be harmful to the trees.

To sum up, if your soil is definitely dry around the roots and the leaves are beginning to drop before they should, a little water is certainly advisable. If the auger or shovel indicates the soil still contains moisture, no irrigation is necessary or should be given.

Question: I am very much interested in sesame. Is it possible to grow it here? What yield can be expected and how long does it take to mature, Will appreciate any information you can supply.—G. F.

Answer: An almost identical question was asked by another correspondent some two or three years ago, but as the reply made at that time is probably not available to you, it will be repeated in substance. Experiments with sesame in California have been largely confined to the hot belts in the state, as in the San Joaquin and Imperial valleys. In Imperial county yields of from 1500 to 2000 pounds per acre were secured, although under optimum conditions it is said that two or three times this amount per acre should be secured.

Sesame matures its seed in from 100 to 110 days after planting. It requires considerable water, some 24 or 30 inches being used in Imperial Valley to mature a crop. In the San Joaquin valley plantings have been made early in June and in Imperial valley during the latter half of that month. Late planting is preferred there for the reason that seed maturity then comes during cooler weather when the danger of shattering is less. In the California trials, rows were spaced 30 to 36 inches apart and some 7 to 10 pounds of seed were used per acre. Apparently the greatest hazard in growing sesame lies in harvesting, the shattering of the seed being rather a serious obstacle. It is entirely possible that by this time some means has been discovered of overcoming this disadvantage al-

though no late information is at hand concerning this matter.

There are several varieties cultivated, known as brown, black and white, or yellow, seeded. The brown and black seeded varieties have, it is said, yielded from 10 to 25 per cent more seed than the white, although the latter expresses from 2 to 4 percent more oil. As far as is known to the writer, no experiments have been made with sesame directly along the coast. It is reported to be a hot climate plant, and if this information is correct it probably would not do well in the western part of San Diego County.

Question: From a hole in the plaster in an upstairs room a quantity of small hard pellets have dropped to the floor. Does this mean that there are wood-boring beetles in the wood? How can I get them out if this is what is working there?

Answer: The type of pellets that you describe usually mean that termites are in the wood. These pellets are rather definite indications of the presence of the so-called dry wood termites. The remedy is either to remove all infested timbers and replace them with new, or if the infestion is not of great extent to treat the infested timbers in place. By calling or telephoning the Farm Bureau office in the Chamber of Commerce you can secure a copy of a bulletin on termites which will give you quite definite information concerning these pests. If much timber is suspected of infestation it would be far safer to enlist the services of a structural pest control operator, of whom there are several in San Diego, rather than attempt to do the work yourself.

Question: I am planting a number of avocados this winter and would like to know which is preferred, to plant them with or without basins?—J. L. K.

Answer: The use of basins is rather a disputed practice, some growers advocating them during the entire life of the trees and others only for the first two or three years. Somewhat depends upon the location, whether the area to be planted is level or whether it is deeply sloping. If the latter, then basins are a necessity unless a thorough terracing is to be given. On fairly level ground the writer believes that they should be used for two or three years and then discarded. However, as one writer puts it, "if you basin your trees and mulch them, or if you neither basin nor mulch, or if you do one and not the other, or if you only basin and mulch part of the time, you will have lots of company either way." Up to a certain point the type of soil you have, the lay of the land and the availability of irrigation water should determine your course. As previously indicated the writer is of the opinion that basins and mulches are quite desirable for at least two or three years on level ground and perhaps much longer or even permanently on steep ground. After all is said and done, many growers will continue to use basins and many will not.

Garden Tasks

Starting a small orchard?

Wrap trunks of young trees with paper to protect them from rabbits.

* * *

Take in, repair, and paint garden furniture.

* * *

Continue outdoor and perennial planting.

* * *

Give house plants special care until they are acclimated to outdoor conditions again. Provide a moist atmosphere and feed regularly. Keep the leaves clean by spraying with water or in the case of thick-leaved varieties, wiping with a damp cloth.

* * *

Be sure that evergreens go into the winter season with a plentiful supply of moisture in the ground. Water so the soil is soaked to quite a depth.

* * *

Not too late for fall-sown sweet peas. Trench planting is still recommended but I know a gardener who starts his in flats as he does all annuals.

County Fair

October 8th to 16th

The County Fair Board has just announced the appointment of our Treasurer, Mr. Frederick G. Jackson, as Honorary Superintendent of Floral Culture in recognition of his interest and service in this particular field. Mr. Jackson says the flower and horticultural exhibits will receive particular attention this year. They are not to be displayed, as formerly, in a tent but will be located in the paddock space of the racing plant with the professional displays in the center of the paddock and the remainder of the exhibits in 18 rooms used as saddling stalls during the race meeting.

Improved housing should make the exhibits even finer this year. Let's all turn out to see what San Diego is doing in Floriculture on October 8 to 16.

DELPHINIUMS

Delphiniums are among the finest of perennials. All are beautiful and hardy, profuse bloomers, and are fairly easy of culture. Plant in a good moist friable loam to which some lime or old plaster has been added. Cut down to 6 inches after blooming and you will get two and sometimes three bloomings a season. The color range is wide now. I noticed even a yellow being advertised, Zalili (or Sulphureum).

Sow lupins in fall for sturdy plants. The new Russell strain comes in colors never before achieved in lupins: deep yellows, oranges, reds and brilliant bicolors.

Many of you are familiar with Primula malacoides the dainty little primrose that starts so readily from seeds. Did you know it is now available in several colors? Fraicheur is the light lilac, Gaiety is dark red, Snowflake pure white, and Superba Rosea rose.

The Master Gardner's Page

Such Popularity Must be Deserved —And It Is

Indoor gardens are receiving attention now, and if you are making any purchases of additional plants to enlarge yours, do not overlook the Saintpaulia, or African Violet. Several years ago this beautiful little free-blooming plant was almost unknown, but seldom now do you find a florist who does not carry it.

Its demands are not exacting, and it gives months and months of bloom, but there are a few points which the person unfamiliar with its culture will appreciate knowing.

It requires plenty of light, but not direct noonday sun. An east window with a strong light, but not over two hours of sun a day, will fulfill its needs in this respect. Too much sun will cause burning of the leaves.

While it likes plenty of moisture and a humid atmosphere, drainage must be perfect, or the feeding roots will rot. The soil must never be waterlogged. Also, all watering should be done from the bottom—that is, set the pot in water when the soil seems dry and allow the pot to absorb water from the bottom until the entire earthball is saturated. Water applied from the top would cause the crown to rot, Never allow water to touch the leaves or crown of the plant.

I find an excellent means of keeping the surrounding air sufficiently moist is to set the pot in a larger pot containing damp peat moss. Then all that is necessary between weekly waterings is to keep the peat moss damp, thus providing for constant evaporation of moisture in the air. This method is used in the greenhouse by some growers of African Violets.

The best potting soil for this plant is a mixture of peat, sand and loam. Small pots should be used, as the plant will not bloom until potbound. Feed lightly once a week with a complete balanced plant food which has been dissolved in water used for supplying moisture.

Guard against excessive heat, also draughts. Cold air blowing on the plant will stop blooming. Do not leave near windows on cold nights.

Heat, abrupt temperature changes or too little light will start or spread decay. Improper watering also causes decay. Water decay usually first becomes apparent at the stalk base.

Yellowing leaves may be from overwatering, from the use of water not of room temperature, or from a lack of nourishment.

Cut off all stems of withered flowers promptly to prevent formation of seed pods.

When leaves are dusty, give a very light brushing with a soft brush.

For curing or preventing mites, to which this plant is subject, place a saucer of camphor flakes under the plant.

Take Care of Our House Plants

There are precautions which we must take with house plants in reproducing as nearly as possible the outdoor conditions under which each plan grows, if we are to ave any degree of success in growing them in our homes.

One of our leading agricultural colleges some years ago conducted a survey by questionnaire, to see which factors affected plants most in the home. One of the most injurious factors was the presence of gas in the home. Gas used in cooking proved most injurious. It takes a very slight amount of gas in the air of a home to be injurious to plants, so look to all leaky pipes or a leaky gas stove, and do not turn a gas burner or fixture on for several seconds prior to lighting it. Also, ventilate the house frequently to assure the plants fresh air, but in doing so do not allow a direct draft to blow on the plants.

Another very important factor was the temperature maintained in the home. The figures in this survey showed that the person who keeps his house cool has three times as good a chance to grow plants as has the one who keeps it above 70 degrees F. Where a temperature below 70 degrees F. was maintained, very few reported failure in growing plants.

Too little light was a common cause of failure, especially when coupled with high temperatures. South and east windows were considered the best exposures. Choose plants which are at home in the light you have available. If you do not have very much light, choose foliage plants recommended for such conditions.

Poor drainage was given as a frequent cause of failure with plants. In potting plants, be sure that adequate drainage is provided.

Lack of nourishment is a common cause of failure. Remember that house plants draw their nourishment from a very small amount of soil. Proper food is one factor that can be easily taken care of through regular feeding with a complete balanced plant food. Feed plants every four to six weeks, according to the manufacturer's directions which will be found on the package.

Correct watering is a very important factor. Length of time between waterings varies with the plant, size of pot, and conditions maintained around the plan with regard to heat and ventilation.

Another important factor is maintaining humidity of the air. Plants will not flourish in a dry atmosphere. This may be accomplished by the use of humidifiers on radiators. The air can also be kept moist by placing the pots in a pan of pebbles, in which water has been placed to a height which will not reach the bottom of the pot. Thus the roots will be kept out of standing water, yet there will be a constant evaporation of moisture and this moist air will surround the plant. There are also now on the market mats of various absorbent materials, which if placed under the pot will provide constant evaporation of moisture.

Practice good plant sanitation as a safeguard against insects and disease. Wash the leaves of plants regularly, either by sponging or spraying. Remove dried leaves.

San Diego Floral Association

Meets

Third Tuesday of Each Month at Balboa Park

RAINFORD FLOWER SHOP

You are cordially invited to call and see our shop at

2140 4th Avenue

San Diego

Telephone number remains the same — F. 7101

Call and Investigate

Three rare and desirable plants.

An ever-blooming pink heather.

A lavender flowering and strong growing vine for special location.

The Madagascar fragrant Stephanotis—white vine.

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